(d) by when the work relating to conversion/upgradation would likely be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Minister of Revenue, Disaster Management, Road and Building, Capital Project, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat has sent a letter in February, 2008 requesting to provide adequate fund to ongoing projects including gauge conversion.

(c) The detail of funds allocated for various ongoing projects is available in the Railway Budget Documents 2009-10.

(d) Time frame for completion of the ongoing projects will depend on availability of resources.

Rail link between Jowai and Silchar

3156. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail link between Jowai in Meghalaya and Silchar in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A survey for new line from Panchratna (Jogighopa) to Badarpur has been completed recently. The alignment of this surveyed new line passes close to Jowai. The cost of this 437 Km. long new line has been assessed as Rs. 15894.04 crore.

Rail link between Shillong and Byrnihat

3157. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail link between Shillong and Byrnihat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The survey for construction of new line from Byrnihat to Shillong has been completed in December, 2008. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 108.40 Km. long line has been assessed as Rs. 4083.02 crore. The report is to be examined in the Ministry for further action.

Appointment to Grade 'D' posts in Railways

3158. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of appointment to grade 'D' posts in the Railways on regular and daily wage basis;

(b) whether any discretionary quota is available to the Railway Minister for appointment of persons to these grades;

(c) if so, the total number of persons appointed to the Grade 'D' post regular and daily wages during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of persons so appointed to these grades from Bihar particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Various modes of appointment to Group 'D' posts on the railways are direct recruitment from open market, Scouts and Guides quota, Sports quota, Compassionate Ground appointment and engagement as Substitutes, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway projects in Maharashtra

3159. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few projects of laying new railway lines, doubling the tracks and widening of existing lines in Maharashtra are pending;

(b) whether Government is aware of the request made by the leaders of political parties and the State Government of Maharashtra for providing adequate funds for ongoing railway projects in the State; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for providing funds for the railway projects in Maharashtra as requested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. However the projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The funds for projects have improved considerably over last few years due to certain steps taken for getting additional funds through public private partnership, State sharing, funds for National Projects from Central Government exchequer, Defence funded and other projects under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. State Government of Maharashtra has also agreed to share 50% cost of some of the projects.

Dilapidated condition of boggies in Kerala bound trains

3160. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala bound trains have very old and damaged compartments;

(b) if not, the details of date of manufacture of each compartment used currently in Kerala Express, Trivandrum Rajdhani, Mangala Express, Millennium Express, Kochuveli